

MISSISSIPPI WIRELESS COMMUNICATION COMMISSION
June 5, 2008 Meeting Minutes
Place: MDOT Auditorium

Commission Members Present:

MS Department of Corrections
MS Department of Information Technology Services
MS Department of Transportation
MS Dept of Public Safety
MS Department of Homeland Security
MS Supervisors Association
MS Emergency Management Agency
MS Municipal League
MS Police Chiefs' Association

Chris Epps
David Litchliter
Willie Huff
Jim Younger
Jay Ledbetter
Joel Yelverton
Mike Womack
Quincy Mukoro
Ken Winters

Advisory Members Present:

Representative Tyrone Ellis

Chairman Chris Epps called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM and called for a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Joel Yelverton made the motion, and it was seconded by Mike Womack. The motion passed with none opposed.

Joel Yelverton reported for the Procurement Review Committee. There were three new requests submitted for approval. Walthall County made a request for a new radio dispatch and console system from Motorola at a cost of \$130,283. This request was approved by the committee. DeSoto County E911 made a request to upgrade their console firmware and add console positions. The system cost will be \$390,283 and will be MSWIN compatible. Mr. Yelverton made a motion to approve the request. David Litchliter seconded the motion, and it passed with none opposed. The Department of Human Services made a request to continue their Verizon contract for location-based services on their cell phones. They will be converting to Cellular South as soon as services are available. The cost of the contract will be \$291,900. Mr. Yelverton made a motion to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Willie Huff, and it passed with none opposed.

Mr. Yelverton explained that the proposed procurement guidelines have been out for the prescribed amount of time and adjustments have been made. Mr. Yelverton made a motion to approve the guidelines. The motion was seconded by Jay Ledbetter and passed with none opposed. The guidelines will be posted for 30 days for comment before going into effect. Mr. Yelverton thanked the ITS staff for their help. Mr. Yelverton presented a letter from Harrison County requesting assistance to make their system interoperable with MSWIN. The letter was referred to the Interoperability Committee for action.

There was no report for the Interoperability Committee.

Willie Huff reported for the Governance Committee. He presented a slide presentation on fees charged by other states to support their statewide radio systems. He explained that the estimated cost of operation and maintenance for MSWIN after full implementation is anticipated to be approximately \$10 million per year over the next four years. It was discussed that the enabling legislation allows the WCC to charge fees to offset the cost of operation. Members of the commission discussed several fee structure options for the system. Willie Huff made a motion to set the maximum fee per device per year at \$200.00. Jay Ledbetter seconded the

motion. Mr. Yelverton questioned if there would be a contract with the users, and Mr. Huff answered that there would be. The motion passed with none opposed. Mr. Huff made a motion that the maximum fee would not increase for four years from July 1, 2008. Mr. Yelverton seconded the motion. Mike Womack initiated a discussion as to whether or not the locals would be comfortable with less than a four year guarantee. It was decided that the local governments like to know what to expect to allow for planning and budgeting, and Mr. Womack withdrew his concerns about the four year guarantee. The motion passed with none opposed. Mr. Litchliter suggested that we talk with the WCC Advisory Board to discuss funding options to augment the fees charged to all state and local users.

Mr. Huff continued his report for the Governance Committee. He explained that for fleet mapping purposes there needs to be a policy for access to the MSWIN system key for allowing users to program their own radios. The State must protect the system key to ensure system security and to keep unauthorized users off the system. Rod McLain of Buford Goff explained what controls the local agencies should have and what they should not be allowed to do. The locals could be allowed to program radios using templates, but they would not be able to change the template. Michigan has staff to program radios for the local agencies. Mr. Huff suggested that MDOT could perform this function for Mississippi. Mr. Yelverton inquired if locals using their own system with their key would be able to operate as normal. It was explained that they would, but they would not have access to the system key for MSWIN.

Mike Womack questioned if the 650 FEMA radios should be given out, or if they would be held until needed. Mr. Huff stated that we do have the radios, and they have been programmed for use on the Coast. Mr. Womack stated that he would like a Field Plan for distributing the radios by August. There was a discussion of the purpose of the FEMA radios.

Bill Roach gave a project update. The project is ahead of schedule. 18 sites are nearing completion of all approvals to begin construction; however, there are nine leases left to be signed for Phase I. The sites for Phase II are being chosen. Mr. Roach asked that the Commission approve two change orders. The first was to reduce the project by three sites, which is a savings of a little over \$3 million. Mr. Yelverton made a motion to approve that change order. It was seconded by Mr. Huff, and it passed with none opposed. The second change order was for hardware and services to interoperate with Louisiana, which is required by FEMA. The cost will be \$77,810. Mr. Yelverton made a motion to approve that change order. It was seconded by Mr. Huff, and it passed with none opposed. Representative Tyrone Ellis asked why three sites were eliminated. Mr. Roach explained that through consolidation they were no longer needed. Representative Ellis questioned if there were any problems acquiring right-of-way land. Mr. Roach answered that there had been some problems, but all have been worked out for the 18 sites in Phase IA.

Ken Winters, the president of the Police Chiefs' Association, briefly spoke about the perception his association has of the WCC. He stated that members of his association are concerned that local governments don't have adequate representation in to the decision making process of the WCC. He suggested that every effort be made to include the locals in the decision making process to change this perception. Several state representatives were surprised and concerned about this perception and felt like much deference is given to local government needs in all decisions of the WCC.

Chairman Epps began a discussion of the rules and regulation document, which was introduced at the last meeting. He distributed a letter from Bill Buffington requesting that the WCC office not be moved from the MDOT building. There was discussion about several of the proposed

rules. Mr. Yelverton made a motion to table the discussion of rules and regulation until the next meeting. Jay Ledbetter seconded the motion, and it passed with Chairman Epps and Jim Younger (representing DPS) opposed. Chairman Epps reminded the Commission members that participation is needed and that he did not receive any correspondence prior to the meeting regarding these guidelines. Chairman Epps urged all members to contact him in writing with any concerns and to come to the next meeting prepared to discuss these issues with the intent of adopting rules and regulations.

Mr. Litchliter distributed a report of the monthly expenditures. The following expenses needed Commission approval: Buford Goff for \$45,957.20; Motorola Phase I for \$336,873; Motorola Testing of SOW's for \$943,914; and Butler Snow for \$1,054.50. Jay Ledbetter made a motion to approve payment of these bills. The motion was seconded by Joel Yelverton, and it passed with none opposed.

Contact information for Commission members was distributed, and members were asked to update that information.

Chairman Epps stated that the paperwork has been signed for the \$20 million dollar bond and \$10 million of that will be considered for approval at the bond meeting this month.

The next meeting will be changed because of the July 4th holiday and will be July 10, 2008, in the MDOT auditorium at 1:30 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM.